

# **The Wisdom of the East Series**

**EDITED BY**

**L. CRANMER-BYNG**

**Dr. S. A. KAPADIA**

**SADI'S SCROLL OF WISDOM**

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WISDOM OF THE EAST

SADI'S

# SCROLL OF WISDOM

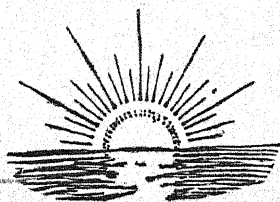
PERSIAN AND ENGLISH TEXT

WITH INTRODUCTION BY

SIR ARTHUR N. WOLLASTON, K.C.I.E.

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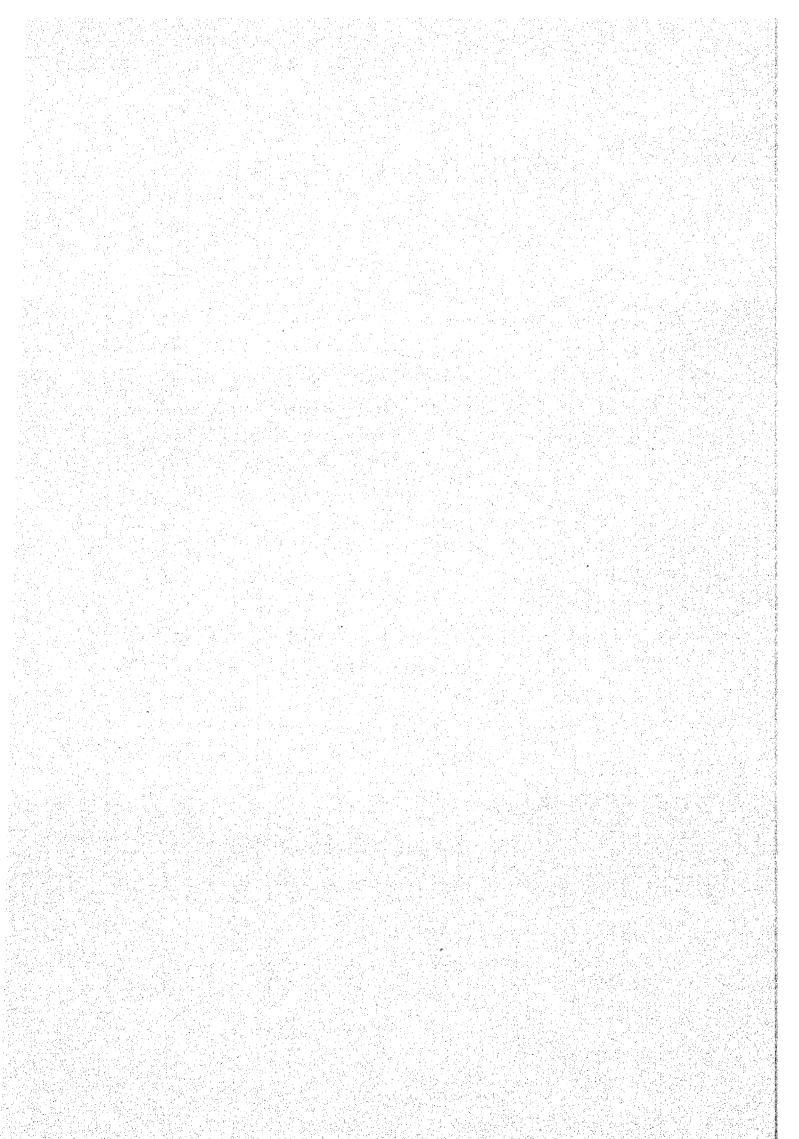


# CONTENTS

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	PAGE
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	9
PRAYER . . . . .	30
IN PRAISE OF MUHAMMAD . . . . .	32
ADDRESS TO THE SOUL . . . . .	32
IN PRAISE OF GENEROSITY . . . . .	34
DESCRIPTION OF BENEVOLENCE . . . . .	36
IN CONDEMNATION OF PARSIMONY . . . . .	38
DESCRIPTION OF HUMILITY . . . . .	40
IN CONDEMNATION OF PRIDE . . . . .	44
ON THE EXCELLENCE OF LEARNING . . . . .	46
AS REGARDS AVOIDING THE SOCIETY OF THE IGNORANT . . . . .	48

	PAGE
DESCRIPTION OF JUSTICE . . . . .	52
IN CONDEMNATION OF OPPRESSION . . . . .	56
DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTMENT . . . . .	58
IN CONDEMNATION OF AVARICE . . . . .	60
DESCRIPTION OF OBEDIENCE AND WORSHIP . . . . .	64
IN CONDEMNATION OF SATAN . . . . .	70
IN EXPLANATION OF THE WINE OF AFFECTION AND LOVE . . . . .	72
AS TO THE NATURE OF FIDELITY . . . . .	76
ON THE EXCELLENCE OF GRATITUDE . . . . .	78
IN EXPLANATION OF PATIENCE . . . . .	80
DESCRIPTION OF RECTITUDE . . . . .	82
IN CONDEMNATION OF LYING . . . . .	84
ON THE WORKS OF THE MOST HIGH GOD . . . . .	86
AGAINST PLACING HOPE IN CREATED BEINGS . . . . .	92



## EDITORIAL NOTE

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THE object of the editors of this series is a very definite one. They desire above all things that, in their humble way, these books shall be the ambassadors of good-will and understanding between East and West, the old world of Thought, and the new of Action. In this endeavour, and in their own sphere, they are but followers of the highest example in the land. They are confident that a deeper knowledge of the great ideals and lofty philosophy of Oriental thought may help to a revival of that true spirit of Charity which neither despises nor fears the nations of another creed and colour. Finally, in thanking press and public for the very cordial reception given to the "Wisdom of the East" series, they wish to state that no pains have been spared to secure the best specialists for the treatment of the various subjects at hand.

L. CRANMER-BYNG.  
S. A. KAPADIA.

NORTHBROOK SOCIETY,  
185 PICCADILLY, W.

## INTRODUCTION

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**S**HAIKH MUSLIH-UD-DIN SADI, the celebrated Persian poet, was born at Shiraz between the years 1175 and 1193 of the Christian era. His father, whose name was Abdullah, is generally supposed to have held some minor post about the Court of the Atabak ruler of Fars, by name Sa'd bin Zangi (A.D. 1195—1226), from whom was derived the poetical *nom de plume* of Sadi.

He commenced his studies in his native city, whence after a while he removed to the Muhammadan College of Baghdad, where it chanced that a rich native gentleman, being informed of the young student's

want of means, befriended the lad, who was fortunate enough to obtain assistance, also, from a Professor in the College. In due course Sadi gained a fellowship. He thereupon abandoned himself to a contemplative life and the study of divinity, while his pious and devotional aspirations found vent in a pilgrimage to Mecca—an act of holy zeal which he repeated no less than fourteen times, chiefly on foot. Of a religious disposition, Sadi in due course obtained a reputation for holiness, which culminated in the title of “Shaikh” (a man of dignity and position), by which he became generally known. For many years his life was devoted largely to travel; this, indeed, may be gathered from his own words: “I have wandered to various regions of the world, and everywhere have I mixed freely with the inhabitants. I have gathered something in each corner.

I have gleaned an ear from every harvest.”<sup>1</sup>

On another occasion we learn from his own narrative that he was so enraged at the pagan rites practised at the renowned temple of Somnath, in Gujarat, that he incontinently threw the priest headlong into a well.

An anecdote related by himself reveals the next important event in his career. “Weary of the society of my friends at Damascus, I fled to the barren wastes of Jerusalem and associated with brutes, until I was made captive by the Franks,<sup>2</sup> and forced to dig clay, along with Jews,

<sup>1</sup> Well indeed may he have penned these words, inasmuch as he traversed Asia Minor, Barbary, Abyssinia, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Armenia, Arabia, the various provinces of Iran, and portions of India. Even in these days of extended travel Sadi's wanderings would not be without repute.

<sup>2</sup> That is, the Crusaders.

in the fortifications of Tripoli. One of the nobles of Aleppo, my ancient friend, happened to pass that way, and recollected me. He said, 'What a state is this to be in! how farest thou?' I answered, 'Seeing that I could place confidence in God alone, I retired to the mountains and wilds, to avoid the society of man. But judge what must be my situation, now that I am confined in a stall in company with wretches who deserve not the name of men. To be chained by the feet with friends is better than to be free to walk in a garden with strangers.' He took compassion on my forlorn condition, ransomed me from the Franks for ten dinars, and took me with him to Aleppo. My friend had a daughter, to whom he married me, and presented me with one hundred dinars<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In the coinage of the present day, 100 dinars are worth about one penny of English money.



as her dower. After some time my wife unveiled her disposition, which was ill-tempered, quarrelsome, obstinate, and abusive; so that the happiness of my life vanished. It has been well said, 'A bad woman in the house of a virtuous man is his hell—even in this world.' Take care how **you** connect yourself with a bad woman. Save us, O Lord, from this fiery trial!"

Sadi was an adept at repartee—two instances will suffice. Once his wife reproached him with the following taunt: "Art not thou the creature whom my father ransomed from captivity amongst the Franks for ten dinars?" "Yes," was the rejoinder; "he redeemed me for ten dinars, and enslaved me to you for a hundred."

On another occasion, when a poet at Tabriz, taking offence at the intrusion of

his rival Sadi, asked the latter, somewhat abruptly, "Whence come you?" "From the delightful soil of Shiraz," was the rejoinder. "Indeed," was the sarcastic retort of the questioner; "the Shirazis in Tabriz are more numerous than dogs." "The very reverse of our city," so spake the quick-witted poet of Shiraz, "where Tabrizis are of less account than dogs." The contest of satire was not, however, at an end, and after a pause the man of Tabriz renewed the attack by drawing attention to the baldness of his rival's head. Turning up a vessel that chanced to be in his hand, "How comes it," said he, "that the heads of the Shirazis are bald like the bottom of this bowl?" "By the same rule," was the prompt and bitter rejoinder, "that the heads of the Tabrizis are as empty as the hollow of the bowl."

Nothing daunted by the misfortunes attendant on his first marriage, Sadi during his travels in Arabia wedded a second spouse, with whom it may perhaps be surmised he lived on affectionate terms—judging, at least, from the anguish of soul with which he recorded the death of his youthful child, the offspring of this union.

It is, however, open to doubt whether Sadi experienced a very large measure of domestic happiness, inasmuch as in one of his poems he gives the advice, “Choose a fresh wife every spring—on New Year’s Day ; for the almanack of last year is good for nothing.”

His liberality in entertaining guests was so great and lavish, that on one occasion a rival poet, whom he had regaled with most princely hospitality, despairing of returning in any adequate manner the profuse generosity of his former host,

set before the man of letters, now a guest, the plainest and simplest of dishes. The explanation of this proceeding was couched in somewhat remarkable language. "I should have found great difficulty in giving you even one day's dinner in the sumptuous style that reigned at your hospitable board during the three days which I had the happiness of passing with you. But in this, my economical mode of entertainment, I could indulge myself for years in the pleasure of your society, without feeling the expense."

In the latter part of his life Sadi retired to a cell near Shiraz, where he passed his time in pious devotions, and in receiving visits from the noblest of the land.

"It was the custom of his illustrious visitants," writes Sir Gore Ouseley, "to take with them meats and all kinds of viands, of which, when Sadi and his

company had partaken, the Shaikh always put what remained in a basket suspended from his window, that the poor wood-cutters of Shiraz, who daily passed his cell, might occasionally satisfy their hunger. It is said, and firmly believed in Persia, that one day a man dressed as a wood-cutter approached the basket, with the intent of plundering, but ere his hand reached its contents it dried up and withered. Concluding that it was a miracle worked by the Shaikh, the offender cried out to him for assistance. The holy man, in a reproving tone, said, 'If thou art a wood-cutter, where are thy blistered hands, thy wounds from thorns, and thy labour-worn frame? Or if a robber, where is thy climbing-rope, thy arms, and thy hardened boldness that should have restrained thee from thus moaning and crying?' He however took compassion on the hapless culprit, offered

up a prayer for the restoration of his arm, and even bestowed upon him, with a proper admonition, a portion of the viands which he had in vain attempted to carry off by stealth."

When the Atabaks were replaced by the Mughal dynasty of Persia (A.D. 1256), it chanced that the military commander of Shiraz compelled the greengrocers and market people of the city to purchase at the hands of their rulers, for a large amount, some dates which had but a nominal value. The matter was brought to the notice of Shaikh Sadi, who thereupon addressed a letter in verse to the Mughal governor, pointing out that the poet's brother was so poor that "he has no trousers on his legs, and yet he has been compelled to buy dates at an exorbitant price. A worse misfortune than this," it was added, "there is not." The appeal was successful, and

not only were dates given free of charge to the Shaikh's impoverished brother, but "a paltry sum" was placed at his disposal as a gift from the governor on "learning that the man was poor."

When the second of the Mughal monarchs of Persia ascended the throne (A.D. 1265) he chanced one day, in company with some of his ministers, to meet Sadi, and was astonished to find that the poet received at the hands of these ministers more consideration than was extended to himself, albeit a royal personage. Enquiring the cause of a circumstance so strange, his Majesty was asked in return whether he had not heard of the great Shaikh whose poetry was famous throughout the world. The result was that the Shaikh was summoned to the royal presence and requested to "give some counsel." "Thou canst bear nothing with thee from this world to the next,"

was the rejoinder, "save a recompense or a punishment, and the choice now rests with thee." The monarch felt the reproach, so the Shaikh on leaving whispered in the royal ear the following verses :

"A monarch is the shadow of God ;  
The shadow should be a close companion  
of its substance.

The vulgar soul is incapable of good,  
If the sword be not king.

All the right that appears in the world  
Is evidence of the monarch's rectitude.

A kingdom derives no advantage from  
him

Whose every thought is an error."

During the same reign one of the ministers submitted to Sadi five questions, to which a reply was invited. (1) Is a demon or a man the better ? (2) How should I act if my enemy will not be reconciled to me ?



(3) Is one who performs the pilgrimage to Mecca better than one who has neglected that duty? (4) Is a descendant of Ali<sup>1</sup> better than other people? (5) Would the poet be pleased to accept a present of a turban and 500 dinars as subsistence money for his birds? The messenger, the bearer of the letter, thought that he might with advantage be considered as one of the "birds," and accordingly put into his own pocket 150 dinars, leaving a balance of no more than 350 dinars. The reply of Sadi, which betokened that he had detected the theft, ran thus :

"Thou hast sent me an honoured present  
and money.

May thy wealth increase, and thine enemies  
be trodden under foot !

For each dinar may a year of life be thine,

<sup>1</sup> The son-in-law of the Prophet, and the first caliph according to the tenets of the Persians.

So that thou mayest continue to live  
three hundred and fifty years."

On receipt of this poetic effusion the minister gave an order on the treasury for no less than 10,000 dinars; but the treasurer had in the meantime passed away, a circumstance which the poet brought to the notice of his patron. When the latter learnt what had occurred, he increased the donation to no less than 50,000 dinars, with a suggestion that some portion of the money should be devoted to the erection of a house at Shiraz for the accommodation of travellers. Four of the questions propounded appear to have remained unanswered.

Shaikh Sadi died at a very advanced age in Shiraz, A.D. 1291. His tomb, originally held in much esteem and decked with extracts from his own poems, has more

or less fallen into decay, though enough it is believed remains to mark the resting-place of one of Persia's most gifted poets and men of letters.

"Sadi," such is the description of him by a native annalist, "was short, and not very handsome. His head was extremely long, truly indicative of a grave and saintly aspect. His dress was eminently simple, consisting of a turban, a long blue gown worn over his undercoat, and a stick in his hand. The character of this venerable bard was highly noble and becoming a great person. He was extremely courteous and affable to his friends, and generous towards his enemies. In wit he surpassed every author of his age, and his humour was so successful that he could make the most silent and melancholy face laugh in his company. He was a boy among the circle of experienced youths, a sage among a society of

divines. In a word, he was an accomplished scholar, an excellent master of pure Persian eloquence, an unsullied instructor of divinity, and a consummate painter of life and manners."

The works by which Shaikh Sadi—"the nightingale of a thousand songs"—is best known are :

(a) The *Bustan*, an exquisite poem embodying moral precepts and rules of life ;

(b) The *Gulistan*, possibly the most widely read book in Persian literature. Well indeed did Eastwick, when publishing a translation of this charming volume, write, "The school-boy lisps out his first lessons in it, the man of learning quotes it, and a vast number of the expressions have become proverbial. When we consider, indeed, the time in which it was written—the first half of the

thirteenth century—a time when gross darkness brooded over Europe, at least—darkness which might have been, but, alas ! was not felt—the justness of many of its sentiments, and the glorious views of the Divine attributes contained in it, are truly remarkable.”

(c) The *Pand Namah*, or *Scroll of Wisdom*,<sup>1</sup> a small volume of poetry embodying precepts which would do no discredit to the philosophy of this, the twentieth century of the Christian era. Concise and elegant, the work is most popular throughout the length and breadth of the Persian-speaking East. This may indeed well be the case, inasmuch as, in addition to beauty of diction, it is written in a metre which flows in easy cadence, and fixes the words

<sup>1</sup> It may, however, be explained that the earlier MSS. do not contain this work, which was first ascribed to Sadi about A.D. 1438.

of the poem on the mind. Hence the lines are committed to memory to an extent that is probably not surpassed by any work in the Persian language. Byron's lines known as the "Lover's Last Adieu" may be quoted as an example of rhythm identical with that of Sadi's *Scroll of Wisdom*. The two may with advantage be quoted side by side.

"The roses of love glad the garden of life."

"Karima ba bakhsha ya bar hal i-ma."

It only remains to add that no translation of *The Scroll of Wisdom* has been published in this country during the last hundred years (Gladwin's text—in itself somewhat imperfect—was issued with an appended translation in 1801), though in Bombay some twenty years ago an

Indian scholar rendered it into English. Both works are out of print, and for all practical purposes it may be said that a translation is not procurable by the British public. Perhaps, therefore, no apology is needed for the present work.

ARTHUR N. WOLLASTON.

GLEN HILL, WALMER,

*May 6, 1906.*

THE PAND NĀMAH

OR

SCROLL OF WISDOM

By SHAIKH MUSLIH-UD-DĪN  
SA'DĪ SHĪRĀZĪ



پندنامہ

شیخ مصطفیٰ الدین  
حاج محمد صالح الدیوب

سعدی شیرازی

*In the Name of God, the Merciful and  
Compassionate !*

O merciful Being ! take pity on our condition ;

For we are captives in the snare of lust !

We have no protector save Thee !

Thou art the all-sufficient Forgiver of sins  
to us sinners !

Keep us from the path of error ;

Forgive us our trespasses, and show us  
righteousness.

بسم اللہ الرحمن الرحیم

کریم بخشایے بر حال ما کہ ہستم اسیر کمند ہوا

نداریم غیر از تو فریاد رس توئی عاصیانِ اخطا بخش لب

نگہ دار ما را از راهِ خطا خطا در گذار و صواب ہم نما

## IN PRAISE OF MUHAMMAD

*The Peace of God be upon him and his  
Posterity !*

So long as the tongue is fixed in the mouth,  
May the praise of Muhammad be a source  
of delight.

The beloved of God, the most exalted of  
Prophets,

Whose pillow is the glorious firmament.

The earth-conquering horseman with his  
chestnut Burāq,<sup>1</sup>

Which passed beyond the palace of the  
cerulean portico !

## ADDRESS TO THE SOUL

Forty years of thy precious existence have  
expired ;

Yet thy life hath not passed beyond child-  
hood.

<sup>1</sup> The steed on which Muhammad visited Heaven.

در شنای پیغمبر صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم

زبان تابو در دہان جاگیر شنای محمد بود و دلپذیر

حسین خدا شرف انبیا کہ عرش مجیدش بود و دستکا

سوار جہانگیر یکراں براق کہ بگذشت از قصر نعلی واق

خطاب نفس

چہل سال عمر عزیزت گذشت مزاج تو از حال طفلی نگشت

Thou hast spent all in lust and licence ;  
Not a moment hast thou acted according to  
righteousness.

Rely not upon unstable life ;  
Be not confident that thou art safe from  
the sport of fortune.

#### IN PRAISE OF GENEROSITY

O soul ! whoever spreadeth the table of  
benevolence

Is famous in the world of liberality.

Generosity will make thee renowned  
throughout the universe ;

Generosity will secure thee happiness.

Beside generosity there is nothing in the  
world.

Nor is aught more current in any market !

Generosity will be the source of delight ;

Generosity will be the harvest of life.

ہمہ باہواؤ ہوس ساختی دے بامصلح نیرداختی  
 مکن تکیہ بر عمنہ پایدار مباحث ایمن از بازی و زگار

## دریچ کرم

دلاہر کہ نہاد خوانِ کرم بشد نامدارِ جهانِ کرم  
 کرم نامدارِ جہانت کند کرم کامگارِ امانت کند  
 ورے کرم در جہان کا نشت وزین گرم تر پہیچ بازار نیست  
 کرم مایہ شادمانی بود کرم حاصلِ زندگانی بود

Freshen the heart of the world by generosity ;

Fill the globe with the renown of thy generosity.

For ever be steadfast in generosity ;

Since the Creator of the soul is beneficent.

#### DESCRIPTION OF BENEVOLENCE

The man of good parts maketh choice of benevolence ;

For mankind becometh prosperous from benevolence.

Be conqueror of the world through kindness and benevolence ;

Be a chief in the kingdom of kindness and generosity.

Benevolence is the attribute of men of piety,

Benevolence is the duty of the prosperous.

Benevolence is the touchstone of the alloy of sin,

Benevolence is the medicine for all ills.



دل عالمی از کرم تازه دار      جهان از شش شریج آواره دار

همه وقت شود در کرم مستقیم      که هست آفریننده جان کیم

## در صفت سخاوت

سخاوت کند نیکیخت اختیار      که مرد از سخاوت شود بختیار

بلطف و سخاوت جهانگیر باش      در اقلیم لطف و سخا میر باش

سخاوت بود کار صاحبان      سخاوت بود پیشه مقبلان

سخاوت مس عیب اکیمیاست      سخاوت همه در دها را دوست

Be not, if you can, void of benevolence,  
That you may snatch the ball of excellence  
owing to benevolence.

#### IN CONDEMNATION OF PARSIMONY

Were the spheres to fall to the share of the  
miser,

Were fortune the slave of the miser,  
Were the wealth of Qārūn<sup>1</sup> in his hand,  
Were a quarter of the universe subservient  
to him—

The miser is not worthy that thou shouldst  
mention his name.

And were fortune to become his servant,  
Pay no regard to the property of the miser—  
Speak not of the miser's property and  
possessions.

Were the miser a devotee both on land and  
sea,

He would be—so it is ordered—unknown  
in Paradise.

<sup>1</sup> A man proverbial for his wealth and avarice.

مشتواتوان از سخاوت بری که گوئے بهی از سخاوت بری

## در مذمت بخیل

اگر چرخ گرد و بکام بخیل و راقبال باشد غلام بخیل

و گرد کفش گنج قارون بود و گرتابش رُبِ مَسکون بود

نیز در بخیل آنکه نامش بری و گرد روزگارش کند چاکری

مکن التفات بهال بخیل مبرنام مال و منال بخیل

بخیل اربود زاهد مجرب و بهشتی نباشد بکلم خبر

Though the miser be rich in possessions,  
 He would suffer distress, as if he were a  
 poor man.

Benevolent persons enjoy the fruit of their  
 wealth ;

The niggardly suffer grief from their gold  
 and silver.

#### DESCRIPTION OF HUMILITY

O soul ! if thou makest choice of humility,  
 The people of the world will be thy  
 friends.

Humility will augment thy station,  
 Just as the moon gets light from the sun.  
 Humility is the source of intimacy,  
 For exalted will be the dignity of friend-  
 ship.

Humility exalteth a man,  
 Humility is a decoration to men of position.  
 Every one who is human is humble ;  
 Nought becometh a man save magnanimity.

بخیل ارچه باشد تو انگیزمال    بخواری چو مفلس غم در گوشمال  
سخیان ز اموال برمی خورند    بخیلان غم نسیم و زرمی خورند

### در صفت تواضع

دلاگر تواضع کنی اختیار    شود خلق دنیا ترا دوستدار  
تواضع زیادت کند جاه را    که از مهر بر تو بود ماه را  
تواضع بود مایه دوستی    که عالی بود پایه دوستی  
تواضع کند مرد را سرفراز    تواضع بود سروران را طراز  
تواضع کند هر که هست آدمی    نزیب زد مردم بجز مردمی

The man of wisdom maketh choice of  
humility ;

The bough laden with fruit rests upon the  
earth.

Humility will increase thy reputation,  
It will get thee a place in the glorious  
Paradise.

Humility is the key of the gate of Heaven ;  
It is an ornament to position and dignity.

Whoever is born to command,  
It is more than delightful to find in him  
humility.

Whoever is accustomed to humility  
Will enjoy rank and power.

Humility will make thee beloved in the  
world—

Thou wilt become dear in men's hearts as  
their own soul.

Do not withhold humility from mankind,  
For thus thou mayest withdraw thy neck  
(from perplexity) as it were a sword  
(from the scabbard).

تواضع کند هوشمند گزین      نهد شاخ پُرمیوه سبزه بر زمین  
 تواضع بود حرمت افزای تو      کند در بهشت برین جانی تو  
 تواضع کلیدِ دِجنت است      سرافرازی جاه از نیت است  
 کسے اگر ز کشتی درست بر      تواضع از ویافتن خوشتر  
 کسے که عادت تواضع بود      ز جاه و جلالتش تمتع بود  
 تواضع عزیزت کند در جهان      گرمی شوی پیشِ لہا چو جان  
 تواضع مدار از خلایق دریغ      که گردانِ ان بر کشتی بهنجوتیغ

Humility on the part of the exalted is commendable.

If a beggar be humble, it is his nature.

#### IN CONDEMNATION OF PRIDE

Beware, O son! that thou dost not become proud,

Lest fortune thereby slip from thine hands.

Pride on the part of a wise man is not comely ;

Sad is such demeanour in the case of a prudent person.

Pride is the habit of the ignorant,

Pride doth not proceed from men of intelligence.

Pride caused the fall of 'Azāzīl,<sup>1</sup>

And led to his being ensnared in the prison of the accursed.

Whoever is by nature arrogant,

His head is filled with pride beyond imagination.

<sup>1</sup> Satan.



تواضع ز کردن فرزانگیست    گد اگر تواضع کند خوی است

## در مذمت تکبر

تکبر مکن زینهار اے پسر    که روزی ز دستش در آئی پسر

تکبر ز دانا بودنا پسند    غریب یار نمعنی از دشمنند

تکبر بود عادت جاہلان    تکبر نیاید ز صاحب دلاں

تکبر عزت از نیل را خوار کرد    بزدان لعنت گرفتار کرد

کسے اکہ خصلت تکبر بود    سرش پر غرور از تصور بود

Pride is the source of adversity,  
 Pride is the nature of the evil-disposed.  
 Since thou knowest about pride, why dost  
     thou pursue it ?  
 Thou doest wrong, again thou doest wrong.

#### ON THE EXCELLENCE OF LEARNING

Sons of Adam from learning will find perfection—  
 Not from dignity, and rank, and wealth,  
     and property.  
 Like a taper one must melt in pursuit of  
     learning,  
 Since without learning one cannot know  
     God.  
 A man of wisdom is a student of learning,  
 For the market of wisdom is always  
     brisk.  
 Whoever is fortunate as regards Eternity,  
 Maketh choice of the pursuit of know-  
     ledge.

تجربہ بود مایہٴ مدبری    تجربہ بود اصل بدگوہری  
چو دانی تجربہ پس میکنی    خطا میکنی و خطا میکنی

## در فضیلت علم

بنی آدم از علم یابد کمال    نہ از شمت و جاہ و مال  
چو شمع از پی علم باید گذشت    کہ بے علم نتوان خدا را شناخت  
خردمند باشد طلبگار علم    کہ گرم است پیوستہ با زر و علم  
کسے کہ شد در ازل نخت یار    طلب کردن علم کرد اختیار

This pursuit of knowledge is a duty on thy  
part,

Even if it be necessary to traverse the  
earth.

Go, seize fast hold of the skirt of knowledge,  
For learning will convey thee to ever-  
lasting abodes.

Seek nought but knowledge if thou art  
wise,

For it is neglectful to remain without  
wisdom.

From learning there will come to thee perfec-  
tion as regards religion and the world,  
For thine affairs will be settled by know-  
ledge.

#### AS REGARDS AVOIDING THE SOCIETY OF THE IGNORANT

O soul ! if thou art wise and intelligent,  
Make not choice of the society of the  
ignorant.

طلب کردن علم شد بر تو فرض    دگر واجب از پیش قطع ارض

برو دامن علم گیر استوار    که علمت رساند بدار اقرار

میا موز جز علم گر عافتلی    که بے علم بودن بود عافلی

ترا علم در دین و دنیا تمام    که کار تو از علم گیر نظام

در امتناع از صحبت جاہلان

دلاگر خردمند می هوشیار    مکن صحبت جاہلان اختیار

Dart from the ignorant, as it were an  
arrow ;

Mix not with them, as it were sugar and  
milk.

If thou hast a dragon for a friend in the  
cave,

It is better than to have an ignorant asso-  
ciate.

If the enemy of thy soul be intelligent,  
It is better than an ignorant friend.

No one in the world is so despicable as the  
ignorant,

For nothing is more worthless than  
ignorance.

From the ignorant proceed nought but bad  
deeds,

And no one hath heard therefrom but base  
words,

The end of the ignorant will be the abode  
of the lost,

For the ignorant seldom end life well.

ز جاہل گریزہ چون تیر باش      نیا میختہ چون شکر شیر باش

ترا از دہاگر بود یارِ عسار      از ان بہ کہ جاہل بود غمگسار

اگر خصم جان تو عاقل بود      بہ از دوستدائے کہ جاہل بود

چو جاہل کسے در جہانِ نرست      کہ نادان تر از جاہلی کار نیست

ز جاہل نیاید جز افعالِ بہ      وز روشن شود کس جز اقوالِ بہ

سر انجامِ جاہل حُبِ نسیم بود      کہ جاہل نہ کو عاقبت کم بود

It is best that the ignorant should be  
abased,

For it is fitting that the ignorant should  
find disgrace.

It is well to shun the ignorant,

For from them will arise disgrace in this  
world and the next.

#### DESCRIPTION OF JUSTICE

Since God hath given thee all things to thy  
desire,

Why dost thou not eventually bring forth  
the fruits of justice ?

Since justice is the adornment of royalty,

Why dost thou not fix thine heart upon  
justice ?

Thy kingdom will be established

If justice cometh to thine aid.

Since Nūshīrwān<sup>1</sup> made choice of justice

His name is now held in remembrance for  
his goodness.

<sup>1</sup> A king of Persia surnamed "the Just," who  
reigned from A.D. 531 to A.D. 579.



سر جاہلان بر سرِ دارِ به که جاہل بخواری گرفتارِ به  
 ز جاہل خذر کردن اولی بود کز زنگ دنیا و عفتِ به بود

## در صفتِ عدل

چو ایند ترا این همه کام داد چرا بر نیاری سر انجام داد  
 چو عدل ست پیرانِ خسروی چرا عدل دل نداری قوی  
 ترا مملکت پاداری کند اگر معدلت دستیاری کند  
 چو نوشی روان عدل اگر اختیار کنون نام نیک ست از یادگار

Peace befalleth the kingdom from the  
effects of justice,

Since from justice the kingdom attaineth  
its wishes.

Make the world populous through justice ;  
Fill the hearts of mankind with delight  
through justice.

There is no better architect in the world  
than justice,

Since nought is more excellent than  
righteousness.

What will be the end thereof to thee ?

Even this, that thou wilt have the name of  
a righteous monarch.

Dost thou wish a token of good fortune ?

Close the door of oppression against man-  
kind ;

Withhold not thy favour from thy sub-  
jects ;

Gratify the desires of those who seek  
justice.

ز تائید عدل ست آرام ملک      که از عدل حاصل شود کام ملک

جهان با انصاف آباد دار      دل اهل انصاف اشاد دار

جهان با عدل معانست      که بالاتر از معدلت کائنست

ترازین با خرجه حاصل بود      که نامت شهنشاه عادل بود

اگر خواهی از نیکنختی نشان      در ظلم بندی بر اهل جهان

رعایت دریغ از رعیت مدأ      مراد دل داد خواهان برآر

## IN CONDEMNATION OF OPPRESSION

The world witnesseth desolation owing to  
failure of justice,

As it were a beautiful garden from the  
autumn gale.

Do not give way to oppression in any case,  
Lest the sun of monarchy suffer decline.

He who raiseth the fire of oppression in  
the world

Occasioneth a sigh on the part of the people  
of the land.

If a tyrant raiseth a sigh from the soul  
The anguish createth a flame over land and  
water.

Do not oppress poor helpless people,  
Without further thought as to the narrow-  
ness of the grave.

Be not disposed towards the market-place  
of oppression ;

Be not neglectful of the smoke of men's  
hearts.

# در مذمت ظلم

خرابی زبیداد بیند جهان      چو بستانِ حرم ز بادِ خزان  
 مدِ نخصتِ ظلم در هیچ حال      که خورشیدِ ملکیت نیابد ز آل  
 کسے کاتشِ ظلم زد در جهان      بر آورد از اهلِ عالمِ فغان  
 شکمش گر آبِ برآرد ز دل      زند سوزِ او شعله در آبِ گل  
 مکن بر ضعیفانِ بیچاره زور      بیندیش آخر ز تنگی گور  
 بازِ مظلوم مائلِ مباحش      زد و دِلِ خلق غافلِ مباحش

O man of haste ! be not an oppressor of  
humanity,  
For of a sudden the wrath of God will  
overtake thee.  
Do not oppress the poor humble people,  
For without doubt the tyrant passeth to  
perdition.

#### DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTMENT

O soul ! if thou acquirest contentment,  
Thou wilt exercise sway in the kingdom of  
repose.  
If thou art pinched with the trials of  
poverty,  
Then, in the estimation of the wise, wealth  
is nought.  
The poor man is not disgraced by  
poverty,  
For poverty was the Prophet's glory.

مکن مردم آزاری آگندے کہ ناگہ رسد بر تو قهر خداے  
ستم بر ضعیفان مسکین مکن کہ ظالم بدو رخ رو بے سخن

## در صفت قناعت

دلا اگر قناعت بدست آوری در اقلیم راحت کنی سروری  
اگر تنگدستی ز سختی منال کہ پیش خردمند بیچست مال  
نذار د خردمند از فقر عار کہ باشد نبی راز فقر افتخار

Gold and silver are the glory of the rich,  
But the poor have inward repose.  
Be not distressed if thou art not wealthy,  
Since a sovereign cannot extract taxes from  
the desolate.

In all circumstances contentment is preferable.

Whoever is born under a lucky star is happy.

Enlighten thy soul with the radiance of contentment,

If thou desirest any token of good fortune.

#### IN CONDEMNATION OF AVARICE

Beware ! thou that art snared in the net of avarice,

Lest thou be mad and intoxicated with the cup of greed.

Waste not thy life in the acquisition of wealth,

Since an earthen pot is not of the same value as a pearl.



غنی راز و سیم آرایش است      ولیکن فقیر اندر آسایش است  
 غنی گزینا بشی مکن مضطرب      که سلطان نخواهد خراج از خرد  
 قناعت بهر حال ولی تیرت      قناعت کند هر که نیک اخترت  
 ز نور قناعت برافروزان      اگر خواهی از نیکبختی نشان

## در مذمت حرص

ایامتلا گشته در دام حرص      شده نیست لایق از جام حرص  
 مکن عزم ضائع تحصیل مال      که هم نرخ گوهر باشد سُفال

Whosoever hath fallen into the snare of  
greed

Giveth the harvest of his life to the  
winds.

I grant that all the wealth of Qārūn<sup>1</sup> is  
thine—

That all the riches of the habitable globe  
are with thee—

But in the end thou wilt be enveloped in  
the earth,

Like the helpless, with distress of heart.

Why dost thou vex thyself with the  
anguish of gold?

Why dost thou bear the burden of distress,  
as if thou wert an ass?

Why dost thou undergo anguish on account  
of wealth?

For it will of a sudden be swept away.

<sup>1</sup> A man proverbial for his wealth and avarice.

هر آنکس که در بندِ حرص افتاد      دهر خرمین زندگانی بباد

گفتم که اموالِ قارون تیرست      همه نعمتِ بیعِ مسکون تیرست

بخواهی شد آخر گرفتارِ خاک      چو بیچارگانِ بادلِ دوزخ

چرا میگذازی ز سودایِ زر      چرا میکشی بارِ محنتِ چو خر

چرا میکشی محنت از بهر مال      که خواهد شد نای گمانِ پلّال

Hast thou thus given thine heart to the  
picture of money ?

For with the taste thereof thou wilt become  
a penitent boon companion.

Thou art become such a lover of the face of  
gold,

That thine affairs are distressed and thy  
head upset.

Thou art become as it were a prey to its  
pursuit,

That thou thinkest not of the day of judg-  
ment.

Let not the heart of that base wretch  
rejoice,

Who on account of the world scattereth  
faith to the winds.

#### DESCRIPTION OF OBEDIENCE AND WORSHIP

When fortune is a person's slave

His heart is perpetually disposed towards  
obedience.

چنان دادہ دلِ نقشِ درم کہ ہستی ز دوشِ ندیمِ ندیم

چنان عاشقِ روزِ گشتہ کہ شوریدہ احوالِ سہر گشتہ

چنان گشتہ صیدِ بہرِ شکار کہ یادِ تِ نیاید ز روزِ شمار

مبادا دلِ آن فرومایہ شاد کہ از بہرِ دنیا دہدینِ بباد

## در صفت طاعت و عبادت

کسے اکہ اقبالِ باشد غلام بود میلِ خاطرِ بطاعتِ مہم

It is not fit to turn aside one's head from  
servitude,

Since fortune is obtainable from obedience.

Happiness is procured from obedience ;  
The heart becometh illumined from the  
light of obedience.

If thou girdest thy loins with submission,

Thou wilt open the door of everlasting  
happiness.

The wise man doth not turn his head from  
obedience,

Since no excellence is more lofty than  
obedience.

Keep thine ablutions freshened with the  
waters of obedience,

So that to-morrow thou mayest be free as  
from fire.

Stablish thy prayers with sincerity,

So that thou mayest attain everlasting  
prosperity.

نشانید سر از بندگی تا فتن    که دولت بطاعت تو ان فتن

سعادت ز طاعت میسر شود    دل ز نور طاعت منور شود

اگر بندی از بهر طاعت میان    کشاید در دولت جاویدان

ز طاعت نپسید خردمند سر    که بالای طاعت نباشد سحر

بآب عبادت وضو تازه دأ    که فردا ز آتش شوی رستگا

نماز از سر صدق برپایه دار    که حاصل کنی دولت پایدار

Enlightenment of soul springeth from  
obedience,

Just as the earth deriveth light from the  
sun.

Worship the Creator ;

Sit down in the portals of obedience.

If thou makest choice to worship the  
Creator,

Thou wilt be a chieftain in the kingdom of  
fortune.

Raise thy head and keep not abstinence in  
thy pocket,

For Paradise is the abode of the ab-  
stinent.

Lighten the lamp of thy soul with  
piety,

That thou mayest become happy, like the  
prosperous.

Whoever is clad with the garment of re-  
ligion

Hath no fear for the trials of the day of  
judgment.



ز طاعت بود و شنائی جان که روشن ز خورشید باشد جهان

پرستنده آفریننده باش در ایوان طاعت نشینده باش

اگر حق پرستی کنی اختیار در اقلیم دولت شوی شهریار

سراز جیب پیمیزگاری برآر که جنت بود جای پیمیزگار

ز تقوی چراغ روان بفرود که چون نیکینختان می نیکوز

کسے اک از شرع باشد شعار نترسد ز آسیب روز شمار

## IN CONDEMNATION OF SATAN

O soul ! whoever is overpowered by Satan  
Is night and day in the snare of sin.

Whoever hath Satan for his ruler,  
How can he return to the way of God ?

O soul ! beware that thou dost not give  
way to sin,

That the Creator may have mercy on  
thee.

A wise man avoideth wrong,  
As sugar melteth in water.

A man of good disposition doth not commit  
sin,

Lest he becometh as the light of the sun  
concealed by the clouds.

Do not give way to thy lusts,  
Lest thou be suddenly snatched to perdition.

If thine heart doth not turn aside from  
sin,

Amongst the lowest of the low will be thine  
abode.

## در مذمت شیطان

دلاهر که محکوم شیطان بُو شب روز در بند عصیان بُو  
 کسے را که شیطان بُو پیشوا کجا باز گرد و براہِ خدا  
 دلا غم عصیان مکن بنہار کہ رحمت کند بر تو پروردگار  
 ز عصیان کند دشمنند احقر کہ از آب باشد شکر اگر از  
 کند نیکیخت از گنہ اجتناب کہ پنهان شود نورِ مہر از سحاب  
 مکن نفسِ امارہ را پیروی کہ ناگہ گرفتارِ دوزخ شوی  
 اگر بزتابد ز عصیان دلت بود اسفل السافلین منزلت

Do not destroy the house of life  
 With the torrent of bad and improper  
 actions.  
 If thou keepest away from sin and ini-  
 quity,  
 Thou wilt not be far from the garden of  
 Paradise.

IN EXPLANATION OF THE WINE OF AFFEC-  
 TION AND LOVE

O cupbearer ! bring wine as it were a gar-  
 ment of fire,  
 For a man with a soul desires this (religious)  
 intoxication.  
 The ruby wine in the golden goblet  
 Is soul-inspiring, as it were a beautiful  
 pearl.  
 Welcome is the fire of desire to those in-  
 spired with love !  
 Welcome are the delightful pains of the  
 lords of love !

مکن خانه زندگانی خراب    بی سیلاب فعل بد و ماصواب

اگر دور باشی ز فسق و فجور    نباشی ز گلزارِ فردوس دو

در بیان شرابِ محبت و عشق

بده ساقیا آبِ آتش لیس    که مستی کند لعلِ دل التماس

مے لعل در ساغرِ زنگار    بود روح پرورِ چو لعلِ نگار

خوشا آتشِ شوقِ اربابِ عشق    خوشالت در اصحابِ عشق

Bring this wine as it were the water of  
immortality,<sup>1</sup>

For from its fragrance the soul findeth  
deliverance from grief !

Happy that soul which desires a Friend<sup>2</sup> !

Happy that person who is ensnared in the  
bonds of affection for Him !

Happy that soul which is enamoured of  
the face of the Friend !

Happy that soul whose abode is the Nook  
of the Friend !

A Friend as it were wine like soul-refreshing  
Pearl !

Wine—the purest—like a beautiful face !

Happy men of soul who adore wine !

Happy the flavour of wine to men of  
spirit !

<sup>1</sup> These stanzas must be construed in a figurative and religious sense.

<sup>2</sup> That is “God.”

بیار آن شرابِ چو آبِ حیات    کہ یابزد بوشن دل از غمِ نجات

خوش آمدل کہ از قننادوست    خوش آن کس کہ در بند سودا دوست

خوش آمدل کسیت ابرو دوست    خوش آمدل کسیت تنزلسی دوست

شرابِ چو لعلِ دل آن بخش یار    شرابِ مصفا چو روئے نگار

خوشامے پرستی ز صاحبِ دلان    خوشادوق مستی ز دلدادگان

## AS TO THE NATURE OF FIDELITY

O soul ! be firm-footed as regards fidelity,  
For money hath no currency without its  
stamp.

If thou turnest not the rein from the path  
of fidelity,

Thou wilt be a friend in the hearts of thine  
enemies.

Turn not thy soul's face from the abode of  
fidelity,

That thou be not ashamed before the face  
of thy friends.

Place not thy foot outside the street of  
fidelity,

Since tyranny is not fitting in the case of  
friends.

It is wrong to separate thyself from beloved  
ones ;

It is contrary to fidelity to sever thyself  
from thy comrades.

Want of fidelity is the attribute of women.

Do not learn the unseemly conduct of that sex.



## در صفت وفا

دلادروفا باش ثابت قدم    که بے سکه راج نباشد درم  
 ز راه وفا اگر نیچی غمان    شوی دست اندر دل دشمنان  
 مگردان ز کوه وفا و دل    که درو جان نباشی نخل  
 منہ پای بیرون ز کوی وفا    که از دوستان می نیرزد جفا  
 جدائی ز احباب کج دن خطا    بریدن زیاران خلافت و وفا  
 بود بی وفائی سرشت زنان    میاموز کردارِ سرشت زنان

## ON THE EXCELLENCE OF GRATITUDE

Whosoever hath a heart filled with gratitude to God,

It is not becoming that he should tie up the tongue of praise.

Teach thy soul nought but gratitude to God,

For it is necessary to praise the Creator.

Thy wealth and possessions are increased by gratitude ;

Victory entereth thy door, owing to gratitude.

Wert thou to show gratitude to God till the day of reckoning,

Thou would'st not discharge a thousandth part (of thy duties).

Yes ! it is best to lisp thy gratitude,

For gratitude to Him is an ornament to Islam.

## در فضیلتِ شکر

کسے اکے باشد دلِ خوشنایش    نشاید کہ بند زبانِ سپایش

نفسِ جز بشکرِ خدا بر میار    کہ واجب بود شکرِ پروردگار

ترا مال و نعمت فراید ز شکر    ترا فتح از درِ آید ز شکر

اگر شکرِ حق تا برو مشما    گزاری نباشد یکے از هزار

وے گفتنِ شکرِ اولیٰ تیرت    کہ اسلام را شکرِ افریورست

If thou restrainest not thy tongue from  
gratitude to God,  
Thou wilt attain everlasting felicity.

#### IN EXPLANATION OF PATIENCE

If patience is thy helper,  
Thou wilt attain everlasting happiness.  
Patience is the attribute of prophets ;  
Those who practise religion turn not aside  
from this direction.  
Patience openeth the door of the desires  
of the soul,  
For save patience there is no key for  
this.  
Patience giveth thee the desire of thine  
heart,  
For at the hands of mankind thy difficulties  
are solved.  
Patience is the key of the door of thine  
aspirations,  
The enlarger of the kingdom of desire.

گرازشکر ایزد نه بندی زبان بدست آوری دولت جاودان

## در بیان صبر

تراگر صبوری بود دستیار بدست آوری دولت پایدار

صبوری بود کار پیغمبران نهیچندین رودین پیران

صبوری کشاید در کام جان که خضابری نیست قاجان

صبوری برآرد مراد دولت که از عالمان حل شود مشکل

صبوری کلید در آرزوست کشایندۀ کشور آرزوست

Patience is best in every case,  
 For in this sentence is much meaning.  
 Patience giveth thee thy desire,  
 It relieveth thee from pain and misfor-  
     tune.

Exercise patience if thou art religious,  
 For haste is the attribute of devils.

#### DESCRIPTION OF RECTITUDE

O soul ! if thou makest choice of rectitude,  
 Fortune will become to thee an auspicious  
     companion.

A wise man doth not turn aside his head  
     from rectitude,

Since from rectitude a man's name is exalted.

If thou breathest truth at morn,

Thou wilt avoid the darkness of ignorance.

Beware that thou breathest nought save  
     rectitude,

Since the right hand holdeth pre-eminence  
     over the left.

صبوری بهر حال اولی بود که دشمن آن چند معنی بود

صبوری ترا کامکاری دهد زرنج و بلارستگاری دهد

صبوری کنی گزرا دین بود که تحصیل کار شیاطین بود

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دلاراستی گزنی اختیار شود دولت هم و نجات

نیچه پسر از راستی هوشمند که از راستی نام گرد و بلند

دم از راستی گزنی بصحا زتاریکی جهل گیری کنار

مزن دم بجز راستی زینهار که دار فضیلت یمن بسیار

Nought is better in the world than rectitude,  
 For in the rosebud of rectitude there is no  
 thorn.

#### IN CONDEMNATION OF LYING

When a person followeth after unrighteous-  
 ness,  
 Where will he find deliverance on the day  
 of judgment ?  
 Whosoever assumeth the habit of false  
 speaking,  
 Hath no splendour for the lamp of his soul.  
 Falsehood putteth a man to shame,  
 Falsehood depriveth a man of dignity.  
 A wise man blusheth at a liar,  
 Since no one esteemeth such a person.  
 O brother ! beware that thou speakest not  
 falsely,  
 For a liar is despised, and without repute.  
 Nought is worse than unrighteousness ;  
 O son ! therefrom ariseth loss of fair name.



باز راستی در جهان کانیست کہ در گلبن استی خانیست

## در مذمت کذب

کسے اکہ راستی گشت کار کجار وزیر محشر شود رشتکار

کسے اکہ گرد زبان دروغ چیراغ دلش اناشد فروغ

دروغ آدمی را کند شرمسار دروغ آدمی را کند بے وقار

ز کذاب گیر و خرد مند عار کہ اورانیار دے دے ہر شمار

دروغ اے برادر مگو زینہار کہ کاذب بود خواہی بے اعتبار

زنار استی نیست کار برتر کروم شود نام نیک اے سپر

## ON THE WORKS OF THE MOST HIGH GOD

Regard this globe, resplendent like gold,  
 The roof of which is firm without pillars !  
 Regard the curtain of the revolving sphere !  
 Regard its glittering lamps<sup>1</sup> !

One is a shepherd, and another a sovereign ;  
 One is a suppliant for justice, another covets  
     a throne ;

One is happy, and another miserable ;  
 One is prosperous, and another unfortunate ;  
 One is a payer of taxes, and another  
     possesseth a throne ;

One is exalted, and another debased ;  
 One sitteth on a mat, and another upon a  
     throne ;

One is in rags, and another is clad in silk ;  
 One hath no bread, and another revels in  
     wealth ;

One is disappointed, and another prosperous ;

<sup>1</sup> The stars.

## در صنعت حق تعالیٰ

نگہ کن برین گنبد زنگار	که سقفش بود ستون استوار
سراپردہ چرخ گردندہ بین	در شمعهای فروزندہ بین
یکے پاسبان ویکے پادشاہ	یکے دادخواہ ویکے تاج خواہ
یکے شادمان ویکے دوند	یکے کامران ویکے مستمند
یکے باجدار ویکے تاجدار	یکے سرفراز ویکے خاکسار
یکے بر حصیر ویکے بر سریر	یکے در پلاس ویکے در حریر
یکے بنواؤ ویکے مالدار	یکے نامراد ویکے کارگار

One is afflicted, and another rolleth in  
riches ;

One hath a transient fate, and another is  
established throughout eternity ;

One is full of health, and another is sickly ;

One is full of years, and another is a mere  
stripling ;

One is filled with righteousness, and another  
lives in sin ;

One is given to prayer, and another is ad-  
dicted to deceit ;

One is upright and religious,

Another is immersed in an ocean of crime  
and wickedness ;

One is of good disposition, and another is of  
hasty temper ;

One is patient, and another is quarrelsome ;

One is at ease, another in pain ;

One is in difficulties, another is prosperous ;

One is a chieftain in the world of luxury,

Another is a captive in the snares of ad-  
versity ;

یکے درِ غنا ویکے درِ غنا	یکے رابقا ویکے راقنا
یکے تندرت ویکے ناتواں	یکے ساخورد ویکے نوجوان
یکے درِ صواب ویکے درِ خطا	یکے درِ دعا ویکے درِ دعا
یکے نیک کردار نیک اعتقاد	یکے غرق در بحرِ شوق و فناء
یکے نیک خلق ویکے پسند جو	یکے بُردبار ویکے جنگ جو
یکے درِ تنگم ویکے درِ عذاب	یکے درِ مشقت ویکے کامیاب
یکے درِ جہانِ جلالتِ امیر	یکے درِ کمندِ حوادثِ امیر

One is established in the rose garden of  
comfort,

Another is associated with anguish, pain,  
and distress ;

One exceedeth all limits in the possession of  
wealth,

Another is in want of bread and means for  
his family ;

One is like a rose resplendent with joy,  
Another is distressed at heart, and pained  
in soul ;

One girdeth his loins with obedience,  
Another bringeth his life to an end in sin ;  
One passeth day and night with the Holy  
Book in his hands,

Another sleepeth intoxicated in the corner  
of a wine shop ;

One is fixed firm as a peg at the door of  
religion,

Another is a sinner in the way of infidelity ;

One is prosperous, learned, and intelligent,

Another is unfortunate, ignorant, and  
abashed ;

یکے باغم ورنج و محنت ندیم	یکے درگلستانِ احتیقم
یکے در غم نان و خرج عیال	یکے ابرونِ نیت اندازمال
یکے اول آرزو خاطر حزن	یکے چون گلِ خرمی خنہون
یکے در گنہ بردہ عمرے سہر	یکے بستہ از بہر طاعت کمر
یکے خفتہ و رنج میخانہ مست	یکے اشب و روحِ بخت بدست
یکے در رہِ کفر ز تار دار	یکے بردِ شرع مسمار وار
یکے مدبر و جاہل و شرمسار	یکے مقبل و عالم و ہوشیار

One is a champion, agile, and a warrior,  
Another is faint-hearted, indolent, and  
without courage ;

One is a scribe, a man of enlightened mind,  
Another is an inward thief, calling himself  
a scribe.

AGAINST PLACING HOPE IN CREATED  
BEINGS

For this therefore place no reliance upon  
fortune,

For it will suddenly deprive thy soul of  
life.

Put no reliance upon a numberless army,  
For it may be that thou wilt not be aided  
by victory.

Put no reliance upon kingdom, position,  
and rank,

For they existed before thee, and will re-  
main after thee.



یکے غازی چاکو پہلوان    یکے بزدل و ترسیدہ جہان  
 یکے کاتب اہل دیانت ضمیر    یکے دزد و باطن کنہا مشہور

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ازین پس مکن تکیہ بر روزگار    کہ ناکہ ز جانت بر آرد مار  
 مکن تکیہ بر لشکر و سید و    کہ شاید ز نصرت نیابی مدد  
 مکن تکیہ بر ملک و جاہ و شتم    کہ پیش از تو بودست بعد از تو تم

Do not wrong because thou seest wrong on  
the part of a true friend ;

Good fruit doth not grow from bad seed.

Put no reliance on majesty and power,  
For suddenly, when the command arrives,  
thou must give up thy soul.

Many are the monarchs of exalted rank ;

Many are the warriors who overrun king-  
doms ;

Many are the fierce warriors who scatter  
armies ;

Many are the lion-like men who smite with  
the sword ;

Many are the moon-faced beauties of  
graceful figure ;

Many are the lovely ones with stature like  
the sun ;

Many are the newly arisen heart-ensnarers ;

Many are the freshly decked brides ;

Many are the famous, and many are the  
fortunate ;

Many are they like the cypress in stature,  
and many are the rosy-cheeked beauties ;

مکن بد که بدینی از یار نیک      نمی روید از تخم بد یار نیک  
 مکن تکیه بر ملک و فرماندهی      که ناگه چو فرمان رسد جاندهی  
 بسا پادشاهان سلطان نشان      بسا پهلوانان کشورستان  
 بسا تنگ گردان لشکر شکن      بسا شیر مردان شمشیر زن  
 بسا ماهرویان شمشاد قد      بسا نازنینان خورشید خد  
 بسا دلربایان نوحاسته      بسا نوعروسان آراسته  
 بسا نامدار و بسا کامگار      بسا سمرقند و بسا گلخار

Who have rent the garment of life,  
Who have drawn the head within the wall  
of the grave.

With such the harvest of their life hath been  
scattered to the winds,

So that never hath any one a trace of  
them.

Set not thine heart upon this soul  
captivating abode,

For thou wilt not find therein the soul of  
delight.

Link not thy soul with this earth, with its  
atmosphere of joy,

For misfortune may rain upon it from  
Heaven.

کہ کردند پیراہنِ عمر چاک کیشدند سردر گریبانِ خاک

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مینہ دل برینِ کاخِ خرم ہوا کہ می بار داز آسمانش بلا

The world hath no permanence, O my son !  
Pass not thy life therein in negligence.

Fix not thy heart upon this perishable  
abode.

From Sa'dī remember this one piece of  
advice.

نجاتے نزار دجھان اے سپر بغفلت میر عمر دروے سپر

مِنَہ دل برین دیرِ ناپائدار

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